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This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

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INVENTOR(S)					
Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname		Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)	
James B. Cristi L. Kim		Ballard Palmer Watson		Medford, NJ Hightstown, NJ Cherry Hill, NJ	
<i>Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto</i>					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)					
Liquid Termiticide Compositions of Pyrethroids and Neonictinoids					
Direct all correspondence to: CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number: _____ OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name: Patent Administrator					
Address: FMC Corporation					
Address: 1735 Market Street					
City: Philadelphia		State: PA		Zip: 19103	
Country: United States of America		Telephone: 215-299-6985		Fax: 215-299-6984	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76					
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Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME John M. SheehanTELEPHONE 215-299-6966

[Page 1 of 1]

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: James B. Ballard, et al.

Application No.: to be assigned

Filed: March 25, 2004

For: Liquid Termiticide Compositions of Pyrethroids and Neonicitinoids

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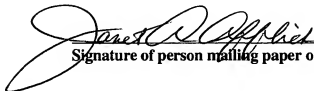
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LIQUID TERMITICIDE COMPOSITIONS OF PYRETHROIDS AND NEONICITINOIDS

The present invention relates generally to pesticidal compositions. In particular, it pertains to compositions of liquid termiticides useful for control of soil-borne termites.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Termites are undisputedly the most destructive of all structural insects. Termites are estimated to cause 1.5 billion dollars of damage to structures annually, and that an additional one billion dollars is spent on treatment. Depending on the type of termite, a colony can cover as much as 22,000 square feet. These industrious insects work 24 hours a day, gradually eating wood and any other cellulose containing material in their environment. Since they remain hidden within the wood in which they are feeding, in mud tubes, or in the soil, they typically wreak havoc undetected. There are two types of termites, described as i) dry wood termites, and ii) subterranean termites. Of these two types, the subterranean termites usually live in the soil (i.e., soil-borne), from which they build mud tubes to structural wood where they then feed.

Control of soil-borne termites can be accomplished by strategic application of at least one termiticide to the soil where there is a termite infestation, to provide a continuous chemical barrier in soil surrounding and beneath a structure. However, the final distribution of a liquid termiticide in soil is the result of a whole series of variables: soil moisture, soil type, solubility of the active ingredient in water, formulation type, and application variables such as volume applied, pressure, nozzle type. The preferred method for control of soil-borne termites is by the application of a termiticide directly to the surface of soil, thereby in theory creating a chemical barrier in the soil when the termiticide leaches into the soil. Termiticides having potential utility in application directly to the surface of soil are in the form of a liquid termiticide. A liquid termiticide is defined as a formulation containing at least one termiticide where the formulation is dispensed in an aqueous medium prior to its application to a locus where termite control is needed. Examples of formulations that can be dispensed in aqueous medium to provide a liquid termiticide include, without limitation, formulations of pyrethroids, such

as bifenthrin, and formulations of neonicotinoids, such as imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiomethoxin.

There is a two-fold problem in the art of formulating a liquid termatocide for soil-borne termite treatment. The first problem is when a liquid termiticide containing relatively water-insoluble, soil-binding termiticides is applied to the soil, there may be gaps, or thinly treated areas, in the desired continuous chemical barrier caused by the immobility of the termiticide in the soil. Termites, therefore, can gain access to food sources/structures through gaps and thinly treated areas in the chemical barrier. The second problem is designing liquid termiticides and combinations thereof that effect high mortality rates on termites throughout the entire continuous chemical barrier in the soil. Combining a pyrethroid formulation, such as bifenthrin, and a neonicotinoid formulation, such as imidacloprid, clothianidin, or thiomethoxin, has solved this two-fold problem. The neonicotinoid provides for good soil mobility for a very effective continuous chemical barrier. The combination of the pyrethroid and neonicotinoid provide for an unexpected increase in termite mortality.

Hence, it would be advantageous to provide a liquid formulation for soil treatment that affords a continuous chemical barrier with significantly increased termite mortality.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It has now been unexpectedly found that applications of a liquid termiticide composition comprising a mixture of a pyrethroid and at least one of imidacloprid, nithiazine, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran, nitenpyram, thiacloprid, or clothianadin result in a continuous chemical barrier in the soil with significantly increased termite mortality. Other aspects of the present invention will also be apparent.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

It has now been unexpectedly found that applications of a liquid termiticide composition comprising a mixture of a pyrethroid and at least one of imidacloprid, nithiazine, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran, nitenpyram, thiacloprid, or clothianadin result in a continuous chemical barrier in the soil with significantly increased termite mortality. Preferably, the pyrethroid is selected from bifenthrin, cypermethrin, zeta cypermethrin,

lambdacyhalothrin, betacyhalothrin, alphacypermethrin, tralomethrin, deltamethrin, cyfluthrin, beta-cyfluthrin, esfenvalerate, fluvalinate, etofenprox or permethrin. More preferably, the pyrethroid is bifenthrin.

One preferred composition is a mixture of bifenthrin and imidacloprid. The bifenthrin may be present in an amount of from 0.0005% by weight to 0.12% by weight of all components in the total formulation. The imidacloprid may be present in an amount of from 0.0005% by weight to 0.10% by weight of all components in the total formulation.

Another preferred composition is a mixture of bifenthrin and clothianadin. The bifenthrin may be present in an amount of from 0.0005% by weight to 0.12% by weight of all components in the total formulation. The clothianadin may be present in an amount of from 0.0005% by weight to 0.10% by weight of all components in the total formulation.

A further preferred composition is a mixture of bifenthrin and thiamethoxam. The bifenthrin may be present in an amount of from 0.0005% by weight to 0.12% by weight of all components in the total formulation. The thiamethoxam may be present in an amount of from 0.0005% by weight to 0.10% by weight of all components in the total formulation.

The invention further comprises a method for controlling termites comprising applying a termiticidally effective amount of a composition to a locus where termite control is needed or expected to be needed. The locus may be selected from a termite-infested structure, a structure that is expected to be termite-infested, or a location adjacent to said structures.

A liquid termiticide is any formulation containing a termiticide where the formulation is dispensed in an aqueous medium prior to its application to a locus where termite control is needed. That is to say, a liquid termiticide is made up of 1) a termiticide, 2) an aqueous medium and 3) other additives conventionally employed in termiticidal formulations (e.g. surfactants, wetting agents, freeze/thaw agents). All formulations of termiticides that are or can be dispensed in an aqueous medium prior to application are, therefore, within the scope of the present invention (e.g. Micro-emulsions, Suspension concentrates, Emulsifiable concentrates, Wettable powders, Water

dispersible granules, Capsule suspensions, Emulsifiable granules or combinations thereof).

The compositions of the present invention may be derived from commercially available formulations of termiticides. For example, bifenthrin, sold by FMC Corporation under the names and trademarks of TALSTAR® GC FLOWABLE INSECTICIDE/MITICIDE, or TALSTARONE® MULTI-INSECTICIDE, to name a few, find utility in the present invention. Using methods known to one skilled in the art, the above-mentioned formulations of termiticides can be dispersed in an aqueous medium to provide a composition containing a termiticidally effective amount of a termiticide.

The following examples further illustrate the present invention, but, of course, should not be construed as in any way limiting its scope. The examples set forth certain biological data illustrating the efficacy of the compositions of the present invention in controlling termites. Unless otherwise indicated, all parts, percentages, and the like are by weight of all components of the total formulation.

EXAMPLE I

Test to Determine Termite Mortality by Applications of Combinations of Bifenthrin and Imidacloprid

The compositions of the present invention were tested for termiticide activity in the following manner:

Test compositions made up of TALSTAR® TERMITICIDE/INSECTICIDE and a wettable powder of imidacloprid in distilled water were prepared that provided appropriate rates of application of combinations of bifenthrin and imidacloprid, as well as bifenthrin and imidacloprid alone.

Glass tubing, 13 mm in diameter, was then cut into 20 cm sections in sufficient quantity to conduct the test. Each 20 mm section of tubing was marked at 5 cm, 8 cm, and 18 cm distances from one end of the tube designated as the bottom. Each section of tubing was packed with a sandy soil (3% wt/wt moisture content) by first placing a

section of a 1 cm diameter wooden dowel into the bottom of the glass tube up to the 8 cm marking, then introducing approximately 2 cm of soil into the other end of the tube designated as the top. The soil was then gently packed into the tube from the top using a second section of the 1 cm diameter wooden dowel. The process was repeated using 2 cm aliquots of soil until the soil level was adjacent to the 18 cm marking, thereby providing a column of soil 10 cm in height. An agar plug, which was formed in a section of the 13 mm diameter glass tubing of the type used to conduct these tests, was cut into 3 cm sections. A 3 cm section of agar was then gently pushed into the bottom of each tube containing the soil until the agar plug firmly touched the soil at the 8 cm marking, thereby creating a 5 cm void in the bottom of each section of tubing. Following placement of the agar plugs in each section of tubing; two sections of applicator sticks cut in 6 cm lengths were inserted into the bottom end of each tube thereby forcing about 1 cm of each stick into the agar plug to hold the agar plug in place. Plastic caps, with an inside diameter of 13 mm and holes drilled in their centers, were placed on the bottom ends of each of the sections of tubing. A sharpened applicator stick was then inserted into the hole in each plastic cap through the agar plug to the intersection of the agar plug and the soil. The applicator stick was then gently removed in a rotating manner to provide a means for a free flow of liquid through the soil. Each section of tubing was then stood upright, and 0.5 mL aliquots of each suspension of bifenthrin, imidacloprid or combinations thereof, as prepared above, were pipetted onto the top of the soil. Upon application of the test suspensions the top of each section of tubing was covered with a small piece of aluminum foil. The tubes were then allowed to stand for about 20 hours to allow movement of the termiticide(s) downward into the soil. After this time a plastic cap of 13 mm inside diameter was placed on the top of each section of tubing. The plastic caps with the holes drilled in their centers were removed from the bottom of each section of tubing, and a piece of 0.5 cm x 4 cm filter paper was then placed between the two sections of applicator sticks. Fifty termite (*Reticulitermes flavipes*) workers were then inserted into the 5 cm void in the bottom of each section of tubing. New plastic caps without holes drilled in their centers were placed on the bottom of each section of tubing. The sections of tubing were then stored in an upright position, with the termites located

below the soil. At 2 days after treatment (DAT), termite mortality was measured. The following results were recorded:

Table 1
Control of Termites by Application of Combinations of Bifenthrin and Imidacloprid

Treatment	Rate of Appln. (PPM)	Percent Mortality - 2 DAT
A	10	24
B	100	4
A + B	10 / 100	76
Untreated	0	0

A is Bifenthrin

B is Imidacloprid

DAT is Days After Treatment

EXAMPLE 2

Test to Determine Termite Mortality by Applications of Combinations of Bifenthrin and Clothianadin

The compositions of the present invention were tested for termiticide activity in the following manner:

Test compositions made up of TALSTAR® TERMITICIDE/INSECTICIDE and a wettable powder of clothianadin in distilled water were prepared that provided appropriate rates of application of combinations of bifenthrin and clothianadin, as well as bifenthrin and clothianadin alone.

Glass tubing, 13 mm in diameter, was then cut into 20 cm sections in sufficient quantity to conduct the test. Each 20 mm section of tubing was marked at 5 cm, 8 cm, and 18 cm distances from one end of the tube designated as the bottom. Each section of tubing was packed with a sandy soil (3% wt/wt moisture content) by first placing a section of a 1 cm diameter wooden dowel into the bottom of the glass tube up to the 8 cm marking, then introducing approximately 2 cm of soil into the other end of the tube designated as the top. The soil was then gently packed into the tube from the top using a second section of the 1 cm diameter wooden dowel. The process was repeated using 2 cm aliquots of soil until the soil level was adjacent to the 18 cm marking, thereby

providing a column of soil 10 cm in height. An agar plug, which was formed in a section of the 13 mm diameter glass tubing of the type used to conduct these tests, was cut into 3 cm sections. A 3 cm section of agar was then gently pushed into the bottom of each tube containing the soil until the agar plug firmly touched the soil at the 8 cm marking, thereby creating a 5 cm void in the bottom of each section of tubing. Following placement of the agar plugs in each section of tubing; two sections of applicator sticks cut in 6 cm lengths were inserted into the bottom end of each tube thereby forcing about 1 cm of each stick into the agar plug to hold the agar plug in place. Plastic caps, with an inside diameter of 13 mm and holes drilled in their centers, were placed on the bottom ends of each of the sections of tubing. A sharpened applicator stick was then inserted into the hole in each plastic cap through the agar plug to the intersection of the agar plug and the soil. The applicator stick was then gently removed in a rotating manner to provide a means for a free flow of liquid through the soil. Each section of tubing was then stood upright, and 0.5 mL aliquots of each suspension of bifenthrin, clothianadin or combinations thereof, as prepared above, were pipetted onto the top of the soil. Upon application of the test suspensions the top of each section of tubing was covered with a small piece of aluminum foil. The tubes were then allowed to stand for about 20 hours to allow movement of the termiticide(s) downward into the soil. After this time a plastic cap of 13 mm inside diameter was placed on the top of each section of tubing. The plastic caps with the holes drilled in their centers were removed from the bottom of each section of tubing, and a piece of 0.5 cm x 4 cm filter paper was then placed between the two sections of applicator sticks. Fifty termite (*Reticulitermes flavipes*) workers were then inserted into the 5 cm void in the bottom of each section of tubing. New plastic caps without holes drilled in their centers were placed on the bottom of each section of tubing. The sections of tubing were then stored in an upright position, with the termites located below the soil. At 2 days after treatment (DAT), termite mortality was measured. The following results were recorded:

Table 1
Control of Termites by Application of Combinations of Bifenthrin and Clothianadin

Treatment	Rate of Appln. (PPM)	Percent Mortality - 2 DAT
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Treatment	Rate of Appln. (PPM)	Percent Mortality - 2 DAT
A	10	24
B	100	23
A + B	10 / 100	51
Untreated	0	0

A is Bifenthrin

B is Clothianadin

DAT is Days After Treatment

EXAMPLE 3

Test to Determine Termite Mortality by Applications of Combinations of Bifenthrin and Thiamethoxam

The compositions of the present invention were tested for termiticide activity in the following manner:

Test compositions made up of TALSTAR® TERMITICIDE/INSECTICIDE and a wettable powder of thiamethoxam in distilled water were prepared that provided appropriate rates of application of combinations of bifenthrin and thiamethoxam, as well as bifenthrin and thiamethoxam alone.

Glass tubing, 13 mm in diameter, was then cut into 20 cm sections in sufficient quantity to conduct the test. Each 20 mm section of tubing was marked at 5 cm, 8 cm, and 18 cm distances from one end of the tube designated as the bottom. Each section of tubing was packed with a sandy soil (3% wt/wt moisture content) by first placing a section of a 1 cm diameter wooden dowel into the bottom of the glass tube up to the 8 cm marking, then introducing approximately 2 cm of soil into the other end of the tube designated as the top. The soil was then gently packed into the tube from the top using a second section of the 1 cm diameter wooden dowel. The process was repeated using 2 cm aliquots of soil until the soil level was adjacent to the 18 cm marking, thereby providing a column of soil 10 cm in height. An agar plug, which was formed in a section of the 13 mm diameter glass tubing of the type used to conduct these tests, was cut into 3 cm sections. A 3 cm section of agar was then gently pushed into the bottom of each tube containing the soil until the agar plug firmly touched the soil at the 8 cm marking, thereby creating a 5 cm void in the bottom of each section of tubing. Following

placement of the agar plugs in each section of tubing; two sections of applicator sticks cut in 6 cm lengths were inserted into the bottom end of each tube thereby forcing about 1 cm of each stick into the agar plug to hold the agar plug in place. Plastic caps, with an inside diameter of 13 mm and holes drilled in their centers, were placed on the bottom ends of each of the sections of tubing. A sharpened applicator stick was then inserted into the hole in each plastic cap through the agar plug to the intersection of the agar plug and the soil. The applicator stick was then gently removed in a rotating manner to provide a means for a free flow of liquid through the soil. Each section of tubing was then stood upright, and 0.5 mL aliquots of each suspension of bifenthrin, thiamethoxam or combinations thereof, as prepared above, were pipetted onto the top of the soil. Upon application of the test suspensions the top of each section of tubing was covered with a small piece of aluminum foil. The tubes were then allowed to stand for about 20 hours to allow movement of the termiticide(s) downward into the soil. After this time a plastic cap of 13 mm inside diameter was placed on the top of each section of tubing. The plastic caps with the holes drilled in their centers were removed from the bottom of each section of tubing, and a piece of 0.5 cm x 4 cm filter paper was then placed between the two sections of applicator sticks. Fifty termite (*Reticulitermes flavipes*) workers were then inserted into the 5 cm void in the bottom of each section of tubing. New plastic caps without holes drilled in their centers were placed on the bottom of each section of tubing. The sections of tubing were then stored in an upright position, with the termites located below the soil. At 2 days after treatment (DAT), termite mortality was measured. The following results were recorded:

Table 1
Control of Termites by Application of Combinations of Bifenthrin and Thiamethoxam

Treatment	Rate of Appln. (PPM)	Percent Mortality - 2 DAT
A	10	5
B	100	4
A + B	10 / 100	68
Untreated	0	0

A is Bifenthrin

B is Thiamethoxam

DAT is Days After Treatment

In the context of the present invention, the term "termiticide" refers to the active chemical compound or ingredient, such as bifenthrin, imidacloprid, nithiazinc, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran, nitenpyram, thiacloprid or clothianadin that kills or repels termites. The term "liquid termiticide" refers to a formulation of a termiticide where the formulation can be dispensed in an aqueous medium prior to its application to a locus where termite control is desired. The term "locus" refers to any locations where control of termites is needed or is expected to be needed. Such locations include, without limitation, buildings, trees, posts poles, fences, and locations adjacent to buildings, trees, posts poles, fences, as well as other locations. The term "repellency" refers to driving back, warding off, or keeping termites away through the use of a termiticide in a termite barrier. The terms "mortality", "percent mortality", "control", or "percent control" may be used interchangeably, and refer to the killing of and/or repelling of termites.

Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that variations of the invention may be used and that it is intended that the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described herein. Accordingly, this invention includes all modifications encompassed within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

Claim 1. A liquid termiticide composition comprising a mixture of

i) a pyrethroid and

ii) at least one of

- a) imidacloprid,
- b) nithiazine,
- c) thiamethoxam,
- d) dinotefuran,
- e) nitenpyram,
- f) thiacloprid,
- g) clothianadin.

Claim 2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein said pyrethroid is selected from bifenthrin, cypermethrin, zeta cypermethrin, lambdacyhalothrin, betacyhalothrin, alphacypermethrin, tralomethrin, deltamethrin, cyfluthrin, beta-cyfluthrin, esfenvalerate, fluvalinate, etofenprox or permethrin.

Claim 3. A composition according to claim 2, wherein said pyrethroid is bifenthrin.

Claim 4. A composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is a mixture of bifenthrin and imidacloprid.

Claim 5. A composition according to claim 4, wherein the amount of bifenthrin is equal to from 0.0005% by weight to 0.12% by weight of all components in the total formulation and the amount of imidacloprid is equal to from 0.0005% by weight to 0.10% by weight of all components in the total formulation.

Claim 6. A composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is a mixture of bifenthrin and clothianadin.

Claim 7. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the amount of bifenthrin is equal to from 0.0005% by weight to 0.12% by weight of all components in the total formulation and the amount of clothianadin is equal to from 0.0005% by weight to 0.10% by weight of all components in the total formulation.

Claim 8. A composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is a mixture of bifenthrin and thiamethoxam.

Claim 9. A composition according to claim 8, wherein the amount of bifenthrin is equal to from 0.0005% by weight to 0.12% by weight of all components in the total formulation and the amount of thiamethoxam is equal to from 0.0005% by weight to 0.10% by weight of all components in the total formulation.

Claim 10. A method for controlling termites comprising applying a termiticidally effective amount of a composition of claim 1 to a locus where termite control is needed or expected to be needed.

Claim 11. A method for controlling termites comprising applying a termiticidally effective amount of a composition of claim 2 to a locus where termite control is needed or expected to be needed.

Claim 12. A method for controlling termites comprising applying a termiticidally effective amount of a composition of claim 3 to a locus where termite control is needed or expected to be needed.

Claim 13. A method for controlling termites comprising applying a termiticidally effective amount of a composition of claim 4 to a locus where termite control is needed or expected to be needed.

Claim 14. A method for controlling termites comprising applying a termiticidally effective amount of a composition of claim 5 to a locus where termite control is needed or expected to be needed.

Claim 15. A method for controlling termites comprising applying a termiticidally effective amount of a composition of claim 6 to a locus where termite control is needed or expected to be needed.

Claim 16. A method for controlling termites comprising applying a termiticidally effective amount of a composition of claim 7 to a locus where termite control is needed or expected to be needed.

Claim 17. A method for controlling termites comprising applying a termiticidally effective amount of a composition of claim 8 to a locus where termite control is needed or expected to be needed.

Claim 18. A method for controlling termites comprising applying a termiticidally effective amount of a composition of claim 9 to a locus where termite control is needed or expected to be needed.

Claim 19. The method according to claim 10, wherein said locus is selected from a termite-infested structure, a structure that is expected to be termite-infested, or a location adjacent to said structures.

Claim 20. The method according to claim 11, wherein said locus is selected from a termite-infested structure, a structure that is expected to be termite-infested, or a location adjacent to said structures.

Claim 21. The method according to claim 12, wherein said locus is selected from a termite-infested structure, a structure that is expected to be termite-infested, or a location adjacent to said structures.

Claim 22. The method according to claim 13, wherein said locus is selected from a termite-infested structure, a structure that is expected to be termite-infested, or a location adjacent to said structures.

Claim 23. The method according to claim 14, wherein said locus is selected from a termite-infested structure, a structure that is expected to be termite-infested, or a location adjacent to said structures.

Claim 24. The method according to claim 15, wherein said locus is selected from a termite-infested structure, a structure that is expected to be termite-infested, or a location adjacent to said structures.

Claim 25. The method according to claim 16, wherein said locus is selected from a termite-infested structure, a structure that is expected to be termite-infested, or a location adjacent to said structures.

Claim 26. The method according to claim 17, wherein said locus is selected from a termite-infested structure, a structure that is expected to be termite-infested, or a location adjacent to said structures.

Claim 27. The method according to claim 18, wherein said locus is selected from a termite-infested structure, a structure that is expected to be termite-infested, or a location adjacent to said structures.

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to the promotion of a continuous chemical barrier of a termiticide in soil surrounding and beneath a structure in a locus where termites are suspected or known to exist. In particular the present invention relates to compositions of liquid termiticides comprised of a pyrethroid and at least one of imidacloprid, nithiazinc, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran, nitenpyram, thiacloprid or clothianadin.